

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01 ISO-00

IO-14 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03

H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

AID-20 CIEP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-03 OMB-01 SWF-02 FEA-02 DRC-01 /248 W

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R 251709Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4228

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

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AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

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AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMCONSUL LUANDA
USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 LONDON 12515/1

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD EAGR

SUBJ: COFFEE: INTERNATIONAL COFFEE COUNCIL -- RESOLUTION ON
SETTING UP NEGOTIATING GROUPS FOR NEW AGREEMENT

RE: (A) LONDON 12301, (B) LONDON 12134

1. SUMMARY: THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION (ICO) LATE SEPT 24 APPROVED, FOR SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL, DRAFT RESOLUTION TO SET UP NEGOTIATING MECHANISM FOR POSSIBLE CONCLUSION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT WITH ECONOMIC PROVISIONS BY JUNE 1975. RESOLUTION REVIVES OLD WORKING GROUP ON NEGOTIATION AND PROVIDES FOR AT LEAST THREE SUB-GROUPS TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC PROBLEM AREAS. GROUPS WOULD COMMENCE WORK IN JAN AND BE CHARGED WITH SUBMITTING DRAFT COFFEE AGREEMENT TEXT TO COUNCIL FOR NEGOTIATION DURING JUNE 1975. DRAFTED BY AFRICAN GROUP, RESOLUTION WAS EXTENSIVELY AMENDED, LARGELY BY INTERVENTION OF BRAZIL. DESPITE APPEARANCE OF TIGHT TIMETABLE FOR NEGOTIATION, WE ARE NOT CONVINCED PRODUCER GROUP IS YET READY TO BEGIN INTENSIVE NEGOTIATION. END SUMMARY
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2. OPERATIVE PORTION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION ENTITLED "NEGOTIATION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ARGRRMENT" APPROVED BY EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL ON THURSDAY, SEPT 26, FOLLOWS:

"RESOLVES:

"1. TO APPOINT A WORKING GROUP ON THE NEGOTIATION OF A NEW AGREEMENT

COMPOSED OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD TOGETHER WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

"2. TO INSTRUCT THE WORKING GROUP TO MEET AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER 1 JAN 1975 TO DRAW UP A PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE PREPARATION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT WHICH WILL PERMIT THE GROUP TO SUBMIT THE DRAFT TEXT OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT THROUGH THE EXECUTIVE BOARD TO THE COUNCIL FOR NEGOTIATION AT A SESSION OF THE COUNCIL TO COMMENCE DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE 1975.

"3. TO REQUEST THE WORKING GROUP TO TAKE NOTE THAT IT IS THE WISH OF THE COUNCIL THAT:

"(A) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER SUB-GROUPS WHICH THE WORKING GROUP MAY DECIDE TO ESTABLISH, IT SHOULD APPOINT SUB-GROUPS TO CONSIDER AND TO REPORT UPON THE FOLLOWING:

"(I) ESTIMATES OF THE SUPPLY OF AND THE DEMAND FOR COFFEE FOR THE WORLD AS A WHOLE FROM 1974/75 TO 1982/83 TOGETHER WITH AN EXAMINATION OF THE POLICIES AND MECHANISMS FOR REGULATING SUPPLY AND SATISFYING DEMAND;

"(II) AN EXAMINATION OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PRICES OF COFFEE; AND

"(III) ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL MATTERS;

"(B) THE WORKING GROUP COORDINATE THE WORK OF THE SUB-GROUPS AND MEET AS OFTEN AS MAY BE REQUIRED TO RECEIVE PROGRESS REPORTS AND TO TAKE SUCH STEPS AS IT MAY CONSIDER NECESSARY TO EXPEDITE THEIR WORK.

"4. IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP AND OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ITS SUB-GROUPS, TO REQUEST MEMBERS TO FORWARD TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR DISTRIBUTION PRIOR TO THE MEETINGS OF THE WORKING GROUP AND ITS SUB-GROUPS EARLY IN CALENDAR YEAR 1975 AND PROPOSALS OR COMMENTS WHICH THEY MAY WISH TO MAKE REGARDING A NEW INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT ADDITIONAL TO SUCH PROPOSALS OR COMMENTS PREVIOUSLY MADE.

"5. IN ORDER FURTHER TO FACILITATE THE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUPS AND TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION, TO REQUEST

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PREPARE A SUMMARY OF ALL PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD WHICH COULD PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR THE DRAFTING OF A NEW AGREEMENT."

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3. COMMENT: THIS DRAFT RESOLUTION IS PRIMARILY WORK OF AFRICAN GROUP FOLLOWING UP IVORY COAST AGRICULTURE MINISTER SAWADOGO'S PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD ON SEPT 13, 1974. (REF B) WHILE THE FIRST DRAFT SUBMITTED BY THE AFRICANS WAS THOUGHT TO HAVE FULL SUPPORT OF THE PRODUCER GROUP, THIS OBVIOUSLY WAS NOT SO. LED BY BRAZIL, THE OTHER PRODUCERS METICULOUSLY WENT OVER THE DRAFT DURING THE EXECUTIVE BOARD'S PLENARY SESSION OF SEPT 23RD, WITH THE FINAL RESULT THAT THE TEXT AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD AS CONSIDERABLY WATERED DOWN. AT THE BRAZILIANS' SUGGESTION THE WORDS "NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE OF THE COUNCIL" WERE STRICKEN FROM PARA 2 AND DURING THE LONG HASSLE INVOLVING MOSTLY BRAZIL, COLOMBIA AND THE OTHER MILDS, PARA 3 WAS PARED TO BARE BONES. PARA 5 WAS ADDED AT THE INSTIGATION OF FRANCE AS AN EEC INITIATIVE. FRANCE, WITH HE SUPPORT OF OAMCAF, HAD SUGGESTED CHARGING THE SECRETARIAT WITH PREPARING ALTERNATE DRAFT AGREEMENT TEXTS FOR CONSIDERATION OF WORKING GROUPS. HOWEVER, THIS WAS OPPOSED BY THE US, BRAZIL AND OTHERS ON PRACTICAL AND SUBSTANTIVE GROUNDS (E.E. IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TASK IN ABSENCE SOME DECISIONS ON BASIC NATURE OF ANY NEW AGREEMENT AND WOULD RUN THE RISK OF PREJUDGING ISSUES THAT CAN ONLY BE RESOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATION.)

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4. WE ANTICIPATE ACCEPTANCE BY THE COUNCIL WITHOUT SUBSTANTIVE AMENDMENT, BUT ARE LESS SANGUINE THAT ACTUAL WORK TOWARD A

NEW COFFEE AGREEMENT WILL PROGRESS AS FAST AS THE TIME-TABLE
SET FORTH SUGGESTS. DEBATE ON THE RESOLUTION REVEALED A NOTABLE
LACK OF UNANIMITY AMONG THE PRODUCERS ON JUST WHERE AND HOW FAST
THEY WANT TO GO, EVEN THOUGH RECENT WEAKNESS IN THE MARKET HAS
CLEARLY PUT PRESSURE ON THE PRODUCERS AND CREATED SOME ANXIETY.
NEVERTHELESS, THE ICA SECRETARIAT PLANS BLOCK OUT TWO WEEKS EACH
MONTH FOR THE JAN-JUNE PERIOD FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING
ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL FACILITIES TO PERMIT WORK TOWARD A
NEW AGREEMENT TO MOVE AHEAD. ANNENBERG

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Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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